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Dated: April 4, 2011 Signature: (Aaron M. Peters)

Docket No.: 30203/39227
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Steve ARMSTRONG et al.

Application No.: 10/801,195 Confirmation No.: 5133

Filed: March 16, 2004 Art Unit: 2121

For: REMOTE DATA VISUALIZATION WITHIN AN ASSET DATA SYSTEM FOR A PROCESS PLANT Examiner: J. L. NORTON

APPEAL BRIEF IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This Appeal Brief is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 following the Notice of Appeal filed December 2, 2010 in this application. The Appeal Brief is being filed with a two month extension of time and fee.

(i) Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Fisher-Rosemount Systems, Inc., assignee of the entire right title and interest to this application as evidenced by the assignment document recorded at Reel 015566, Frame 0164 on July 16, 2004, which constitutes the entire chain of title from the inventors to Fisher-Rosemount Systems, Inc.

(ii) Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no related appeals or interferences known to the appellants, the Appellants' legal representative, or assignee which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(iii) Status of Claims

A. History

The application was originally filed with claims 1-44. Claims 1-44 are pending and at issue in this case. Each of Claims 1-44 stands at least twice rejected, and most recently rejected for the reasons provided below.

(A) Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 42 and 43 stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nixon et al. (U.S. Pub. Appl. No. 2002/0077711) ("Nixon et al.") in view of Saleh et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,363,588) ("Saleh et al."). Of these, Claims 1 and 24 are independent claims.

(B) Claims 19, 22 and 26 stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Latzel (U.S. Pub. Appl. No. 2004/0230897) ("Latzel"). Claims 19, 22 and 26 are dependent claims.

(C) Claims 3, 16, 18, 29, 35, and 41 stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Spriggs et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,889,096) ("Spriggs et al."). Claims 3, 16, 18, 29, 35, and 41 are dependent claims.

(D) Claims 6, 11-14, 20, 21, 37-40 and 44 stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Kall et al. (U.S. Pub. Appl. No. 2003/0149608) ("Kall et al."). Claims 6, 11-14, 20, 21, 37-40 and 44 are dependent claims.

B. Current Status of All Claims

1. Claims canceled: None
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: None
3. Claims pending: 1-44
4. Claims allowed: None
5. Claims rejected: 1-44

C. Claims On Appeal

The claims on appeal are claims 1-44.

(iv) Status of Amendments

There are no amendments filed subsequent to final rejection.

(v) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The subject matter defined by independent Claim 1 is generally directed to a remote data viewing system of a process plant having a plurality of data source applications, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities within the process plant. More particularly, the subject matter of these claims is directed to a system that collects data from the data source applications, provides remote access to the data, and create a display for the data including a navigational tree having a plurality of sections specifying different categories of entity data in the database and a display view, such that a user may select different sections of the navigational tree to specify different entity data to be displayed and presents the entity data associated with a selected in the display view in a common visual user interface display format for presenting the data associated with each of the sections to be displayed in a same visual user interface format without presenting the data in multiple different visual user interface display formats. To illustrate the claimed subject matter in an exemplary manner, and without limiting the scope of the claims other than to the language of the claims themselves, the following summary is provided.

As described in Fig. 2, a process plant 10 has multiple data source applications 60, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities (see paragraph [0010]) within the process plant (see paragraph [0053]). A remote data viewing system as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 includes a primary data collection platform 62, a database 80, 90 and a web server 87. The primary data collection platform 62 collects the entity data pertaining to the different entities within the process plant from the data source applications 60 (see e.g., paragraphs [0053], [0061], [0062]). Some of the data source applications 60 present the entity data in different visual user interface display formats (see e.g., paragraph [0052]). The database 80, 90 stores the entity data collected by the primary data collection platform 62 (see e.g., paragraph [0060], [0062]). The web server 87 is coupled to the primary

data collection platform 62 and provides remote access to the entity data stored in the database 80, 90 (see e.g., paragraphs [0062]-[0068]).

As described in Figs. 2 and 4, a display application 84 creates a display 93 for the entity data. The display including a navigational tree 94 (see also elements 94a-94e of Figs. 5-15, and elements 100, 120, 142. 150, 162, 202 of Figs. 18-29) that has sections 94a-94g (see also subsections 102, 104, 106 and subfolders thereof of Fig. 18, and subsections 122, 124, 126 and subfolders thereof of Fig. 19) specifying different categories of entity data in the database (see e.g., paragraphs [0089]-[0091] and [0093]) and a display view 95 (see also elements 204, 208, 212, 218, 222, 226, 232 of Figs. 23-29). The display application 84 enables a user to select the different sections of the navigational tree 94 to specify different entity data to be displayed (see e.g., paragraph [0101]), and presents the entity data associated with a selected section in the display view 95 in a predetermined viewing format (see e.g., paragraphs [0062], [0065], [0069], [0073], [0085]). The predetermined viewing format is a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each section in a same visual user interface format (see e.g., paragraphs [0053], [0054], [0069], [0071], [0101], [0109], [0111]; compare Figs. 5-15; compare also Figs. 23-29).

The subject matter defined by independent Claim 24 is generally directed to a method of viewing entity data generated in a process plant having a plurality of data source applications, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities within the process plant. More particularly, the subject matter of these claims is directed to collecting the entity data at a primary data collection platform from the data source applications, where two or more of the data source applications each presents the entity data in different visual user interface display formats, storing the collected entity data in a database, accessing the database from a remote site to obtain entity data displaying a navigational tree including sections specifying categories of the entity data in the database; and displaying a display view that presents the entity data associated with a selected in the display view in a common visual user interface display format for presenting the data associated with each of the sections to be displayed in a same visual user interface format without presenting the data in multiple different visual user interface display formats. To illustrate the claimed subject matter in an exemplary manner, and without limiting the scope of the claims other than to the language of the claims themselves, the following summary is provided.

As described in Fig. 2, a process plant 10 has multiple data source applications 60, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities (see paragraph [0010]) within the process plant (see paragraph [0053]). A method of viewing entity data as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 includes collecting the entity data at a primary data collection platform 62 from the data source applications 60 (see e.g., paragraphs [0053], [0061], [0062]). Some of the data source applications present the entity data in different visual user interface display formats (see e.g., paragraph [0052]). The collected entity data is stored in a database 80, 90 associated with the primary data collection platform 62 (see e.g., paragraph [0060], [0062]). The database 80, 90 is accessed from a remote site 63 geographically separated from the primary data collection platform 62 to obtain entity data stored in the database 80, 90 (see e.g., paragraphs [0062]-[0068]).

As described in Figs. 2 and 4, a navigational tree 94 (see also elements 94a-94e of Figs. 5-15, and elements 100, 120, 142. 150, 162, 202 of Figs. 18-29) is displayed at the remote site 63. The navigational tree 94 includes sections 94a-94g (see also subsections 102, 104, 106 and subfolders thereof of Fig. 18, and subsections 122, 124, 126 and subfolders thereof of Fig. 19) specifying categories of the entity data in the database 80, 90 (see e.g., paragraphs [0089]-[0091] and [0093]). A display view 95 (see also elements 204, 208, 212, 218, 222, 226, 232 of Figs. 23-29) is displayed at the remote site 63 in conjunction with the navigational tree 94. The display view 95 presents entity data in a predetermined viewing format (see e.g., paragraphs [0062], [0065], [0069], [0073], [0085]) in response to a selection of one of the sections 94a-94g of the navigational tree 94 (see e.g., paragraph [0101]). The predetermined viewing format is a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each section in a same visual user interface format (see e.g., paragraphs [0053], [0054], [0069], [0071], [0101], [0109], [0111]; compare Figs. 5-15; compare also Figs. 23-29).

None of independent Claims 1 and 24, and dependent Claims 2-23 and 25-44, which are argued in the Argument section below, includes any means-plus-function or step-plus-function language as permitted by 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Accordingly, identification of means-plus-function and step-plus-function, and reference to the specification and to the drawings of the structure, material or acts corresponding to each claimed function is not applicable to this Summary of Claimed Subject Matter and is not required under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v) with respect to these claims.

(vi) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The applicants appeal from the final rejection of:

(A) Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 42 and 43 as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nixon et al. in view of Saleh et al.

(B) Claims 19, 22 and 26 as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Latzel.

(C) Claims 3, 16, 18, 29, 35, and 41 as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Spriggs et al.

(D) Claims 6, 11-14, 20, 21, 37-40 and 44 as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Kall et al.

For brevity, the applicant is not providing separate arguments with respect to the rejections of the purely dependent claims.

(vii) Argument

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 42 and 43 as unpatentable over Nixon et al. in view of Saleh et al., Claims 19, 22 and 26 as unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Latzel, Claims 3, 16, 18, 29, 35, and 41 as unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Spriggs et al., and Claims 6, 11-14, 20, 21, 37-40 and 44 as unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Kall et al. The Examiner's rejections should not be upheld for reasons best summarized in a discussion of independent Claims 1 and 24. In summary, however, the examiner has failed to provide factual support and rationale for the rejections sufficient to establish *prima facie* obviousness, and thus the rejections should be withdrawn.

It is clear that in order for a claim to be rendered *prima facie* unpatentable, "[all] words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970). See MPEP 2143.03. As required by the Supreme Court in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 82

USPQ2d 1385 (2007), the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art must still be ascertained, and both the invention and the prior art references must be considered as a whole. The result is that all claim limitations must still be disclosed in the prior art. See also *Ex Parte Wada*, Appeal No. 2007-3733, page 7, (BPAI January 14, 2008) (Non-Binding): "When determining whether a claim is obvious, an examiner must make 'a searching comparison of the claimed invention – *including all its limitations* – with the teaching of the prior art.' *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, 1572 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (emphasis added). Thus, 'obviousness requires a suggestion of all limitations in a claim.' *CFMT, Inc. v. Yieldup Intern. Corp.*, 349 F.3d 1333, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985 (CCPA 1974)). Moreover, as the Supreme Court recently stated, '*there must be some articulated reasoning* with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.' *KSR Int'l v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007) (quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006) (emphasis added))." Further, the key to supporting any obviousness rejection is a clear articulation of the reason why the claim would have been obvious. See *KSR* at 1396 (the analysis supporting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be made explicit). See also MPEP 2143.

Further, in order for a claim to be rendered *prima facie* unpatentable there must be some objective reason to combine or modify the teachings of the references. *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). "'[R]ejections on obviousness cannot be sustained by mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.'" *KSR*, 82 USPQ2d at 1396 quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988, 78 USPQ2d 1329, 1336 (Fed. Cir. 2006). See also MPEP 2143. The result is that a rejection must articulate a valid rationale as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would look to modify or combine the cited references. Knowledge of the Appellants' disclosure must be put aside in reaching a determination of obviousness, including a valid rationale to modify the reference, in order that impermissible hindsight must be avoided and the legal conclusion must be reached on the basis of the facts gleaned from the prior art. (See MPEP 2142). If the rejection does not provide a valid, sufficient rationale, then the rejection must fail.

The Appellants submit that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness in failing to provide a valid, sufficient rationale, and submit that Claims 1 and 24 are distinguishable from and allowable over the combination of cited references. As a

consequence, the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to each of Claims 2-23 and 25-44. The Appellants therefore respectfully request the Board reverse the final rejection of Claims 1-44 as obvious over the cited references.

A. The Rejection Of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 42 and 43 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) As Unpatentable Over Nixon et al. in view of Saleh et al. Is Not Proper

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 42 and 43 stand rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nixon et al. in view of Saleh et al. Of these claims, Claims 1 and 24 are independent. The following groups of claims are argued separately below: 1) Claim 1; 2) Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 22 and 23; 3) Claim 24; and 4) Claims 25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 42 and 43.

1. A *Prima Facie* Case Of Obviousness Of Claim 1 Has Not Been Made.

Claim 1 is directed to a remote data viewing system of a process plant having a plurality of data source applications, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities within the process plant, which includes:

> a display application stored on a computer readable memory and configured to execute on a processor within one of the one or more remote platforms to create a display for the entity data, the display including a navigational tree having a plurality of sections specifying different categories of entity data in the database and a display view, wherein the display application enables a user to select the different ones of the sections of the navigational tree to specify different entity data to be displayed and presents the entity data associated with a selected section of the navigational tree in the display view in a predetermined viewing format, wherein the predetermined viewing format is a common visual user interface display format **for presenting entity data associated with each of the plurality of sections specifying the different entity data to be displayed** in a same visual user interface format without presenting a same type of entity data in multiple different visual user interface display formats.

As indicated above, Claim 1 is generally directed to a remote data viewing system of a process plant having multiple data source applications, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities within the process plant. The system

takes data from multiple data sources that provide different visualizations of information and providing a common visualization of information. That is, where a user sees information presented in different visual user interface display formats among the different data sources in a process plant, the techniques of the claimed system and method allow a user to see the same information in a common visual user interface display format.

More specifically, the subject matter of this claim is directed to system that includes a display of a navigational tree and a display view. The navigational tree includes selectable sections specifying different categories of entity data. Entity data associated with a selected section is presented in the display view in a predetermined viewing format, which is a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data of each of the sections, such that the entity data is displayed in the same visual user interface format without presenting the same type of entity data in multiple different visual user interface display formats. At least some of the data source applications each presents the entity data in different visual user interface display formats.

Such a technique is particularly useful for enabling a user to view, in a similar and consistent manner, information obtained from different applications or data sources within a process plant at any desired level of integration, even though the actual data from the multiple different data applications or data sources may be collected and organized in different manners by different data sources. Additionally, one or more remote connections or sites may be set up to access data from a central data collection and integration source, thereby enabling users may easily and quickly access the integrated data at various locations within a process plant or outside of the process plant via, for example, a web connection. Because a common visualization of information is provided remotely at different levels of data integration, a user can easily navigate through the data stored in the database or collected by the different data sources at higher or lower levels of data integration without having to contend with or encounter multiple different viewing formats for the same type of data.

Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. are generally inapplicable to Claim 1. The concept of Claim 1 differs substantially from the combination asserted by the Examiner. In particular, Nixon et al. discloses the concept of integrating data from multiple data sources, organizing the data in an explorer-type navigation tool and displaying the integrated data in user screens based on an application being executed from within a suite of applications. Saleh et al. discloses the concept of a graphical user interface that maps data from different applications

into a common interface having a common appearance of multiple users. However, the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. fails to disclose a display application that enables a user to select different sections of a navigational tree to specify different entity data to be displayed and presents the entity data associated with a selected section of the navigational tree in a display view in a predetermined viewing format, where the predetermined viewing format is a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each of the plurality of sections specifying the different entity data to be displayed in a same visual user interface format without presenting a same type of entity data in multiple different visual user interface display formats. Further, while Nixon et al. discloses a navigation tool and Saleh et al. discloses mapping from multiple applications into a common interface, one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to combine the respective teachings. As a result, it is the Appellants' contention that the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. cannot disclose the invention recited by Claim 1 or render Claim 1 obvious.

While the Examiner has responded to the Appellants' previous arguments by asserting that the Appellants have not accounted for the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al., and by asserting that the Appellants have attacked the references individually (see July 2, 2010 action, pages 2-4), such assertions are incorrect, and the Examiner's reliance upon *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981), and *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986) is misplaced. Simply put, it is a matter of common sense that individual references must be addressed as such in order to demonstrate that the combination of references does not disclose each element of the invention as claimed. *In re Keller* stood for the proposition that where claims were rejected upon a combination of references, an applicant could not demonstrate non-obviousness with respect to only one reference and not the other. *In re Merck & Co.* stood for the proposition that a reference must be read for what it fairly teaches in combination with the prior art as a whole, and not in isolation. Neither is the situation here.

Instead, where the Examiner has already acknowledged that Nixon et al. does not disclose particular features of the claims, the Appellants are entitled to rely upon this acknowledgement. By demonstrating that Saleh et al. ***also*** does not disclose these same features, the Appellants demonstrate that ***the combination*** of Nixon et al. (through the Examiner's acknowledgement) and Saleh et al. (through the Appellants' arguments) does not disclose all of the features of claims 1-44 as is required for any *prima facie* case of

obviousness. Thus, the Appellants account for the combined teaches of the prior art as a whole, demonstrate non-obviousness with respect to both references, and demonstrate that the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. fails to render any of claims 1-44 unpatentable, because the combination does not disclose all of the claimed features. Further, the rationale provided in the action does not overcome this lack of disclosure.

The Examiner has acknowledged that Nixon et al. does not disclose, among other things, a predetermined viewing format that is a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each of a plurality of sections specifying different entity data to be displayed in a same visual user interface format without presenting a same type of entity data in multiple visual user interface display formats (see July 2, 2010 action, page 7). Indeed, it is notable that while the Examiner has cited Nixon et al. as disclosing presentation of entity data associated with a selected section of the navigational tree in a display view, the Examiner has not cited any portion of Nixon et al as disclosing presentation of entity data associated with a selected section of the navigational tree in a display view ***in a predetermined viewing format*** (see July 2, 2010 action, page 6). Thus, even where Nixon et al. discloses display of a navigation tree (see Fig. 5 and paragraph [0088]), Nixon et al. does not disclose ***displaying entity data associated with a selected section of the navigational tree in a predetermined viewing format*** that is a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each of a plurality of selected sections specifying different entity data to be displayed in a same visual user interface format without presenting a same type of entity data in multiple visual user interface display formats. Instead, Nixon et al. discloses that data associated with a selected section of the navigational tree, which is data from different data sources, is displayed in different types of user screens and displays based on the application within a suite of applications being executed.

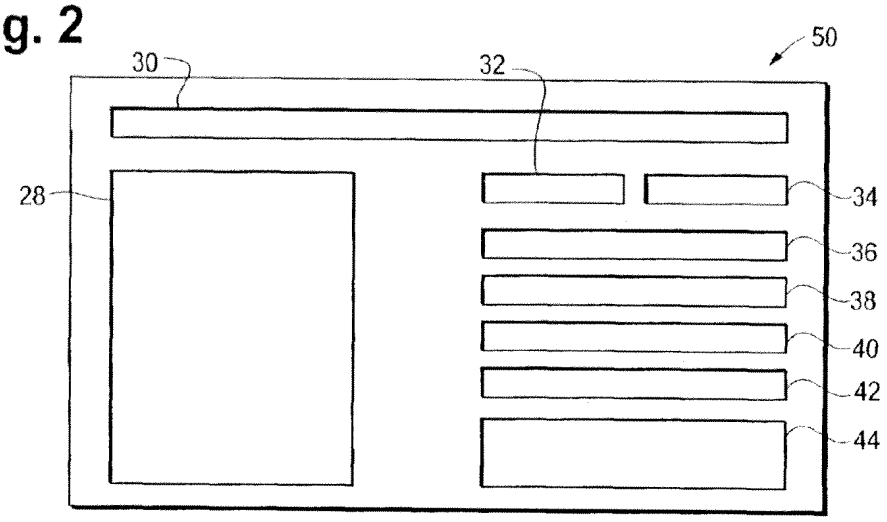
However, Saleh et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Nixon et al. Simply put, the cited portions of Saleh et al. do not disclose ***displaying entity data associated with a selected section of the navigational tree in a predetermined viewing format*** that is a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each of a plurality of selected sections specifying different entity data to be displayed in a same visual user interface format without presenting a same type of entity data in multiple visual user interface display formats. As alluded to above, Nixon et al. may disclose a navigational tree having a plurality of sections specifying different categories of entity data in the

database. However, when the Examiner acknowledges that Nixon et al. does not disclose a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each of the sections of the navigational tree, it becomes incumbent upon the Examiner to provide a reference that discloses a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each of the plurality of sections, ***where the selected sections presented in a predetermined viewing format are part of the recited navigational tree***, or to provide a rationale as to why one of ordinary skill would modify the references in such a manner. In this instance, the Examiner has not done so.

For example, the portions of Saleh et al. cited by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest that a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each of the sections of a navigational tree. The action has cited and highlighted various portions of Saleh et al. relied upon as disclosing "a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each of the plurality of sections," portions of which are cited below (see e.g., July 2, 2010 action, page 7):

> (col. 2, lines 32-34):
>
> In effect, the proxy server 18 functions as a graphical user interface (GUI) provided under a predetermined format substantially controlled by an employer of the users 12, 14.
>
> (col. 5, lines 16-22):
>
> converting in the proxy server information delivered from the selected information resource to the user from the respective predetermined graphical user display interface format of the selected information resource to the predetermined common graphical user display format substantially controlled by the employer of the user; and
>
> (Fig. 2, elements 28, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44):

Fig. 2



(col. 3, lines 6-12, ("control features")):

> The proxy server 18 may be used with a variety of different applications 22, 24. Where the application 22, 24 is supplied with a pre-existing GUI under html, then the proxy server 18 may function simply to parse the data and control features into their components and display these components in their respective predetermined windows 28, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44.

(column 2, lines 64-67 and column 3, lines 1-5):

> FIG. 3 is a block diagram of the proxy server 18. Included within the proxy server 18 may be a translation program 150, 152 associated with each application 22, 24. The translation programs function to receive information from the applications 22, 24 and map the information into the common format perceived by the user 12, 14. The translation programs 150, 152 also receive information entered by the user 12, 14 and may map that information into the format required by the application 22, 24.

According to the above, Saleh et al. discloses a way to map control/display features of different applications 22, 24 to predetermined control windows 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 44 of a GUI 50 provided under a predetermined format (see e.g., column 2, lines 32-57). However, similar to Nixon et al., there is no disclosure within Saleh et al. that the predetermined common graphical user display format (i.e., GUI 50) presents entity data associated with each of a number of sections of a navigational tree.

Col. 2, lines 32-34 simply discloses that the GUI is provided under a predetermined format. As such, while it discloses a common graphical user interface display format, it says nothing about the common GUI display format presenting entity data associated with each of a number of sections of a navigational tree, and there is nothing inherent about a common GUI display format presenting entity data associated with sections of a navigational tree.

Col. 5, lines 16-22 simply discloses that information is converted from a GUI display format of an information resource to the common GUI display format. Again, it says nothing about the common GUI display format presenting entity data associated with sections of a navigational tree.

Fig. 2 simply discloses an example of the GUI 50 that includes predetermined windows 28, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44. The predetermined windows 28, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 are elements of the GUI 50. They do not correspond to sections of a navigational tree or present data associated with sections of a navigational tree. As such, like col. 2, lines 32-34 and col. 5, lines 16-22, Fig. 2 discloses nothing about presenting entity data associated with sections of a navigational tree.

Col. 3, lines 6-12 simply discloses that the data and control features of predetermined GUI display formats of the different applications 22, 24 are parsed and displayed in the corresponding predetermined windows 28, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 of the common GUI 50 display format. It discloses nothing about presenting entity data associated with sections of a navigational tree. It is also notable that the control features mentioned in col. 3, lines 6-12 do not pertain to specifying different entity data of entities within a process plant. Instead, the control features pertain to control features of the different applications 22, 24 that are substantially alike, such that they may be mapped to the control windows 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 44 of the GUI 50 (see e.g., column 2, lines 32-57).

Col. 2, lines 64-67 and col. 3, lines 1-5 simply disclose that information is mapped from the applications 22, 24 to the common format, and vice versa. The data presented in the common format is not associated with sections of a navigational tree.

Accordingly, while individual aspects of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. may appear to disclose the various features of independent claim 1, the proposed combination does not

disclose the arrangement of the features as provided in independent claim 1, because there is no aspect of Nixon et al. or Saleh et al. that corresponds to the recited common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data ***associated with sections of a navigational tree***.

Further, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not combine or modify Nixon et al. with Saleh et al. based on the rationale provided in the action (i.e., "to provide users with less difficulty in operating, as well as need for training in the operation in a range of different applications") (see action, page 8 citing col. 2, lines 53-57 of Saleh et al.). While this cited portion of Saleh et al. discloses an advantage associated with mapping equivalent control and display features into the same window of a common GUI display format, it does not pertain to an advantage associated with presenting ***entity data associated with sections of a navigational tree***. Indeed, where Saleh et al. discloses a mechanism for directly mapping data from applications 22, 24 to a common GUI 50, it would appear that the need for a navigational tree is obviated.

Still further, it would not be *prima facie* obvious to modify Nixon et al. in the manner suggested, because the proposed modification would change the principle of operation of the monitoring system of Nixon et al. In particular, Nixon et al. discloses that the user interface displays screens based on the application being executed and based on data from the data sources:

> [0075] As will be understood, the user interface 244 can display any or all of a number of different types of user screens ***based on the application within the suite 50 being executed***. Thus, for example, the user interface 244 may display equipment performance screens, raw data screens, sates diagrams 242, etc. The user interface 244 may also display integrated alarm screens 248 produced by the integrated alarm application 246. Similarly, diagnostic displays 273, recommendation screens 274, and screens indicating target production and equipment utilization 275 and 276 may be created by any of the fault diagnostics applications 250. Likewise, production planning and financial screens 277 of any nature may be created by the action taking applications 260. Of course, ***other types of screens and displays may be created by these and other applications based on data from numerous data sources***.
>
> (emphasis added).

A review of Nixon et al. reveals that the asset utilization suite 50, of which the user interface 244 is a part, is an important and central aspect of the disclosed data integration, organization and display system (see e.g., paragraphs [0041]-[0049], [0055], [0065]-[0071], [0076]-[0080], [0103], [0104], [0111], [0116], [0118]-[0122]). Further, the user interface 244 is also revealed to be an important and central aspect of the disclosed system:

> [0124] As indicated above, ***the user interface routine 244 provides a graphical user interface (GUI) that is integrated with the asset utilization suite 50 described herein to facilitate a user's interaction with the various asset utilization capabilities provided by the asset utilization suite 50.*** However, before discussing the GUI in greater detail, it should be recognized that the GUI may include one or more software routines that are implemented using any suitable programming languages and techniques. Further, the software routines making up the GUI may be stored and processed within a single processing station or unit, such as, for example, a workstation, a controller, etc. within the plant 10 or, alternatively, the software routines of the GUI may be stored and executed in a distributed manner using a plurality of processing units that are communicatively coupled to each other within the asset utilization system. Still further, the data used by the GUI to create certain screens may be accessed from external data sources via the data collection and distribution system 102.
>
> (emphasis added).

Paragraphs [0125]-[0145] go on to describe examples of the GUI provided by the user interface 124, which includes the explorer-type navigation tool 350 (see paragraph [0126]). Accordingly, in a system directed towards collecting, distributing, integrating and displaying data (see e.g., Abstract and paragraph [0013]), the asset utilization suite 50 of applications, user interface 124, and explorer-type navigation tool 350 for storing, organizing and accessing the collected data (see paragraph [0088]) and the operation thereof are principle components of the overall disclosure of Nixon et al.

Thus, where Nixon et al. discloses that the collection and distribution of information is based on the user interface displays screens, which, in turn, are based on the particular application being executed and based on data from the data sources, any proposed modification to introduce a common display format into the GUI of the user interface 124 would obviate the overall operation of the user interface 124 and change the overall operation of the distribution and presentation of information. Even if the Examiner is correct that the

modification would "provide users with less difficulty in operating, as well as need for training in the operation in a range of different applications," the Examiner has essentially proposed a modification that changes the principle of operation of the data collection and distribution system of Nixon et al. It is well-established that any proposed modification cannot change the principle of operation of a references. In particular, MPEP 2143.01(VI)) specifies that "[if] the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious."

Accordingly, in addition to the general failure of the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. to disclose every element of Claim 1, one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to modify Nixon et al. to include the common format of Saleh et al., or to include any common format for that matter. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is not unpatentable over Nixon et al. in view of Saleh et al.

2. A *Prima Facie* Case Of Obviousness Of Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 22 and 23 Has Not Been Made.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 22 and 23 depend from Claim 1, and therefore include all the elements of Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 22 and 23 are not rendered unpatentable over Nixon et al. in view of Saleh et al. for at least the same reasons as set forth above for Claim 1.

3. A *Prima Facie* Case Of Obviousness Of Claim 24 Has Not Been Made.

Independent Claim 24 is directed to a method of viewing entity data generated in a process plant having a plurality of data source applications, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities within the process plant:

> displaying a display view at the remote site in conjunction with the navigational tree, wherein the display view presents entity data in a predetermined viewing format in response to a selection of one of the sections of the navigational tree, wherein the predetermined viewing format is a common visual user interface display format **for presenting entity data associated with each of the plurality of sections specifying different entity data to be displayed** in a same visual user interface format without presenting a same type of entity data in multiple different visual user interface display formats.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 24 is not anticipated for the same reasons as set forth above for claim 1.

4. A *Prima Facie* Case Of Obviousness Of Claims 25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 42 and 43 Has Not Been Made.

Claims 25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 42 and 43 depend from Claim 24, and therefore include all the elements of Claim 24. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 42 and 43 are not rendered unpatentable over Nixon et al. in view of Saleh et al. for at least the same reasons as set forth above for Claim 20.

B. The Rejection Of Claim 19, 22 and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) As Obvious Over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Latzel Is Not Proper

The rejection of Claim 19, 22 and 26 as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Latzel is not proper because the final Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Of these, Claims 19 and 22 depend from claim 1, and Claim 26 depends from claim 24. The following groups of claims are argued separately below: 1) Claims 19 and 22; and 2) Claim 26.

1. A *Prima Facie* Case Of Obviousness Of Claims 19 and 22 Has Not Been Made.

The rejection of Claims 19 and 22 as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Latzel is not proper because the final Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claims 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Latzel. To establish *prima facie* obviousness, all claim elements must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See e.g., *Ex Parte Wada*, Appeal No. 2007-3733, page 7, (BPAI January 14, 2008) (Non-Binding): "When determining whether a claim is obvious, an examiner must make 'a searching comparison of the claimed invention – *including all its limitations* – with the teaching of the prior art.' *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, 1572 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (emphasis added). Thus, 'obviousness requires a suggestion of all limitations in a claim.' *CFMT, Inc. v. Yieldup Intern. Corp.*, 349 F.3d 1333, 1342 (Fed.

Cir. 2003) (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985 (CCPA 1974)). Moreover, as the Supreme Court recently stated, '*there must be some articulated reasoning* with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.' *KSR Int'l v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007) (quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006) (emphasis added))".

Claims 19 and 22 depend from Claim 1, and therefore include all the elements of Claim 1. As discussed above with respect to Claim 1, the final Office Action failed to establish that the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. discloses all of the recited elements. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 19 and 22 are not obvious.

2. A *Prima Facie* Case Of Obviousness Of Claim 26 Has Not Been Made.

The rejection of Claim 26 as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Latzel is not proper because the final Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Latzel. Claim 26 depends from Claim 24, and therefore include all the elements of Claim 24. To establish *prima facie* obviousness, all claim elements must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See e.g., *Ex Parte Wada*, Appeal No. 2007-3733, page 7, (BPAI January 14, 2008) (Non-Binding): "When determining whether a claim is obvious, an examiner must make 'a searching comparison of the claimed invention – *including all its limitations* – with the teaching of the prior art.' *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, 1572 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (emphasis added). Thus, 'obviousness requires a suggestion of all limitations in a claim.' *CFMT, Inc. v. Yieldup Intern. Corp.*, 349 F.3d 1333, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985 (CCPA 1974)). Moreover, as the Supreme Court recently stated, '*there must be some articulated reasoning* with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.' *KSR Int'l v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007) (quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006) (emphasis added))".

Claim 26 depends from Claim 24, and therefore include all the elements of Claim 24. As discussed above with respect to Claim 24, the final Office Action failed to establish that

the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. discloses all of the recited elements. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 26 is not obvious.

C. The Rejection Of Claims 3, 16, 18, 29, 35, and 41 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) As Obvious Over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Spriggs et al. Is Not Proper

The rejection of Claim 3, 16, 18, 29, 35, and 41 as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Spriggs et al. is not proper because the final Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Of these, Claims 3, 16 and 18 depend from claim 1, and Claims 29, 35 and 41 depend from claim 24. The following groups of claims are argued separately below: 1) Claims 3, 16 and 18; and 2) Claims 29, 35 and 41.

1. A *Prima Facie* Case Of Obviousness Of Claims 3, 16 and 18 Has Not Been Made.

The rejection of Claims 3, 16 and 18 as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Spriggs et al. is not proper because the final Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claims 3, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Spriggs et al. To establish *prima facie* obviousness, all claim elements must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See e.g., *Ex Parte Wada*, Appeal No. 2007-3733, page 7, (BPAI January 14, 2008) (Non-Binding): "When determining whether a claim is obvious, an examiner must make 'a searching comparison of the claimed invention – *including all its limitations* – with the teaching of the prior art.' *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, 1572 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (emphasis added). Thus, 'obviousness requires a suggestion of all limitations in a claim.' *CFMT, Inc. v. Yieldup Intern. Corp.*, 349 F.3d 1333, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985 (CCPA 1974)). Moreover, as the Supreme Court recently stated, '*there must be some articulated reasoning* with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.' *KSR Int'l v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007) (quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006) (emphasis added))".

Claims 3, 16 and 18 depend from Claim 1, and therefore include all the elements of Claim 1. As discussed above with respect to Claim 1, the final Office Action failed to

establish that the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. discloses all of the recited elements. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 3, 16 and 18 are not obvious.

2. A *Prima Facie* Case Of Obviousness Of Claims 29, 35 and 41 Has Not Been Made.

The rejection of Claims 29, 35 and 41 as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Spriggs et al. is not proper because the final Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claims 29, 35 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Spriggs et al. To establish *prima facie* obviousness, all claim elements must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See e.g., *Ex Parte Wada*, Appeal No. 2007-3733, page 7, (BPAI January 14, 2008) (Non-Binding): "When determining whether a claim is obvious, an examiner must make 'a searching comparison of the claimed invention – *including all its limitations* – with the teaching of the prior art.' *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, 1572 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (emphasis added). Thus, 'obviousness requires a suggestion of all limitations in a claim.' *CFMT, Inc. v. Yieldup Intern. Corp.*, 349 F.3d 1333, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985 (CCPA 1974)). Moreover, as the Supreme Court recently stated, '*there must be some articulated reasoning* with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.' *KSR Int'l v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007) (quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006) (emphasis added))".

Claims 29, 35 and 41 depend from Claim 24, and therefore include all the elements of Claim 24. As discussed above with respect to Claim 24, the final Office Action failed to establish that the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. discloses all of the recited elements. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 29, 35 and 41 are not obvious.

D. The Rejection Of Claims 6, 11-14, 20, 21, 37-40 and 44 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) As Obvious Over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Kall et al. Is Not Proper

The rejection of Claim 6, 11-14, 20, 21, 37-40 and 44 as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Kall et al. is not proper because the final Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Of these, Claims 6, 11-14, 20 and

21 depend from claim 1, and Claims 37-40 and 44 depend from claim 24. The following groups of claims are argued separately below: 1) Claims 6, 11-14, 20 and 21; and 2) Claims 37-40 and 44.

1. A *Prima Facie* Case Of Obviousness Of Claims 6, 11-14, 20 and 21 Has Not Been Made.

The rejection of Claims 6, 11-14, 20 and 21 as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Kall et al. is not proper because the final Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claims 6, 11-14, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Kall et al. To establish *prima facie* obviousness, all claim elements must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See e.g., *Ex Parte Wada*, Appeal No. 2007-3733, page 7, (BPAI January 14, 2008) (Non-Binding): "When determining whether a claim is obvious, an examiner must make 'a searching comparison of the claimed invention – *including all its limitations* – with the teaching of the prior art.' *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, 1572 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (emphasis added). Thus, 'obviousness requires a suggestion of all limitations in a claim.' *CFMT, Inc. v. Yieldup Intern. Corp.*, 349 F.3d 1333, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985 (CCPA 1974)). Moreover, as the Supreme Court recently stated, '*there must be some articulated reasoning* with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.' *KSR Int'l v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007) (quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006) (emphasis added))".

Claims 6, 11-14, 20 and 21 depend from Claim 1, and therefore include all the elements of Claim 1. As discussed above with respect to Claim 1, the final Office Action failed to establish that the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. discloses all of the recited elements. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 6, 11-14, 20 and 21 are not obvious.

2. A *Prima Facie* Case Of Obviousness Of Claims 37-40 and 44 Has Not Been Made.

The rejection of Claims 37-40 and 44 as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Kall et al. is not proper because the final Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claims 37-40 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Kall et al. To establish *prima facie* obviousness, all claim elements must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See e.g., *Ex Parte Wada*, Appeal No. 2007-3733, page 7, (BPAI January 14, 2008) (Non-Binding): "When determining whether a claim is obvious, an examiner must make 'a searching comparison of the claimed invention – *including all its limitations* – with the teaching of the prior art.' *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, 1572 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (emphasis added). Thus, 'obviousness requires a suggestion of all limitations in a claim.' *CFMT, Inc. v. Yieldup Intern. Corp.*, 349 F.3d 1333, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (citing *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985 (CCPA 1974)). Moreover, as the Supreme Court recently stated, '*there must be some articulated reasoning* with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.' *KSR Int'l v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007) (quoting *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006) (emphasis added))".

Claims 37-40 and 44 depend from Claim 24, and therefore include all the elements of Claim 24. As discussed above with respect to Claim 24, the final Office Action failed to establish that the combination of Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. discloses all of the recited elements. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 37-40 and 44 are not obvious.

(viii) Claims Appendix

An appendix containing a copy of the claims involved in the appeal is attached as Appendix A hereto.

(ix) Evidence Appendix

An appendix containing Exhibit A referenced above is attached as Appendix A hereto.

(x) Related Proceedings Appendix

There are no decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to section (ii), above.

(xi) Conclusion

For the reasons provided above, the applicant respectfully requests that the Board reverse the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 15, 17, 19, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36, 42 and 43 as unpatentable over Nixon et al. in view of Saleh et al., the rejection of Claims 19, 22 and 26 as unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Latzel, the rejection of Claims 3, 16, 18, 29, 35, and 41 as unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Spriggs et al., and the rejection of Claims 6, 11-14, 20, 21, 37-40 and 44 as unpatentable over Nixon et al. and Saleh et al. in further view of Kall et al. This response is being timely filed with a request for a two-month extension of time and the fee of $ 490.00. The appeal brief fee of $540.00 is also submitted herewith. The Appellants believe no additional fee is due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Dated: **April 4, 2011**

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A – CLAIMS APPENDIX

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A remote data viewing system of a process plant having a plurality of data source applications, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities within the process plant, the remote data viewing system comprising:

a primary data collection platform configured to collect the entity data pertaining to the one or more different entities within the process plant from the data source applications, wherein two or more of the plurality of data source applications each presents the entity data in different visual user interface display formats;

a database configured to store the entity data pertaining to the one or more different entities within the process plant collected by the primary data collection platform;

a web server coupled to the primary data collection platform and configured to provide remote access to the entity data stored in the database at one or more remote platforms; and

a display application stored on a computer readable memory and configured to execute on a processor within one of the one or more remote platforms to create a display for the entity data, the display including a navigational tree having a plurality of sections specifying different categories of entity data in the database and a display view, wherein the display application enables a user to select the different ones of the sections of the navigational tree to specify different entity data to be displayed and presents the entity data associated with a selected section of the navigational tree in the display view in a predetermined viewing format, wherein the predetermined viewing format is a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each of the plurality of sections specifying the different entity data to be displayed in a same visual user interface format without presenting a same type of entity data in multiple different visual user interface display formats.

Claim 2 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the predetermined viewing format organizes the entity data based on device tags associated with the entity data.

Claim 3 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 2, wherein the predetermined viewing format includes a display of audit trail data associated with the device tags.

Claim 4 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 2, wherein the predetermined viewing format includes a display of configuration data associated with the device tags.

Claim 5 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 2, wherein the predetermined viewing format includes a display of calibration data associated with the device tags.

Claim 6 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 5, wherein the calibration data includes a result of at least one calibration procedure.

Claim 7 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying one or more plant locations associated with the entity data within the process plant.

Claim 8 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying one or more physical networks associated with the entity data within the process plant.

Claim 9 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying alerts associated with the entity data within the process plant.

Claim 10 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying calibration entities associated with the entity data within the process plant.

Claim 11 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 10, wherein the calibration entities include at least one calibration route defined within the process plant.

Claim 12 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 10, wherein the calibration entities include calibration schedule information for at least one device within the process plant.

Claim 13 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 12, wherein the predetermined viewing format includes a search engine that enables searching for calibration schedule data based on a priority of a calibration procedure.

Claim 14 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 12, wherein the predetermined viewing format includes a search engine enabling searching for calibration schedule data based on a time or date associated with a calibration procedure.

Claim 15 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying user defined favorite data associated with the entity data within the process plant.

Claim 16 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying audit trail events associated with the entity data within the process plant.

Claim 17 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes a section specifying device tags associated with the entity data within the process plant.

Claim 18 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, further including an alert polling application which polls one or more devices within the process plant for alert information and which sends the alert information to the remote platform for presentation via the predetermined viewing format.

Claim 19 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the web server includes a first application that acquires the entity data from the primary data collection platform as XML data and includes a second application that places the XML data into a web page using the predefined viewing format.

Claim 20 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, further including a search engine that searches entity data in the database and presents the entity data located in the search according to the predetermined viewing format.

Claim 21 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 20, wherein the search engine includes a display field having search fields specifying parameters associated with the entity data.

Claim 22 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the web server includes an application that acquires event data from the primary data collection platform in response to a request from one of the remote platforms, places the acquired event data into a web page using the predetermined viewing format and sends the web page to the one of the remote platforms.

Claim 23 (Original): The remote data viewing system of claim 1, wherein the navigational tree includes multiple sections, wherein each of the multiple sections specifies a different category of entity data and wherein each of the multiple sections includes one or more associated predetermined viewing formats used to view the entity data when selected by a user.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A method of viewing entity data generated in a process plant having a plurality of data source applications, each of which collects or generates entity data pertaining to one or more different entities within the process plant, the method comprising:

collecting the entity data pertaining to the one or more entities within the process plant at a primary data collection platform from the plurality of data source applications,

wherein two or more of the plurality of data source applications each presents the entity data in different visual user interface display formats;

storing the collected entity data in a database associated with the primary data collection platform;

accessing the database from a remote site geographically separated from the primary data collection platform to obtain at least a portion of the entity data stored in the database;

displaying a navigational tree at the remote site, the navigational tree including a plurality of sections specifying categories of the entity data in the database; and

displaying a display view at the remote site in conjunction with the navigational tree, wherein the display view presents entity data in a predetermined viewing format in response to a selection of one of the sections of the navigational tree, wherein the predetermined viewing format is a common visual user interface display format for presenting entity data associated with each of the plurality of sections specifying different entity data to be displayed in a same visual user interface format without presenting a same type of entity data in multiple different visual user interface display formats.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein accessing the database includes using a web server located at a second site geographically separated from the remote site to access the entity data stored in the database, placing the accessed entity data into a web page in the predetermined viewing format at the web server and sending the web page to the remote site.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein the second site is geographically separated from the primary data collection platform.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree that organizes the entity data based on one or more plant locations within the process plant.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the display view at the remote site includes presenting entity data in the predetermined viewing

format that organizes the entity data based on device tags in response to a selection of a section of the navigational tree.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 28, wherein the entity data includes audit trail data associated with the device tags.

Claim 30 (Original): The method of claim 28, wherein the entity data includes configuration data associated with the device tags.

Claim 31 (Original): The method of claim 28, wherein the entity data includes calibration data associated with the device tags.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree that organizes the entity data based on one or more physical networks associated with the process plant.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree that organizes the entity data based on alerts generated within the process plant.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 33, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a section associated with active alerts and wherein displaying the display view includes presenting active alert entity data in a predetermined viewing format in response to a selection of the section associated with the active alerts.

Claim 35 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section associated with polling for alerts generated within the process plant, further including initiating an alert polling application that polls for alerts within the process plant in response to a selection of the first section of the navigational tree and wherein displaying the display view includes presenting alert data obtained by the alert polling application in a predetermined viewing format in response to the selection of the first section of the navigational tree.

Claim 36 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree that organizes the entity data based on calibration events within the process plant.

Claim 37 (Original): The method of claim 36, wherein the calibration events include at least one calibration route defined within the process plant.

Claim 38 (Original): The method of claim 36, wherein the calibration events include at least one calibration schedule defined within the process plant.

Claim 39 (Original): The method of claim 38, wherein displaying the display view includes providing a search engine enabling searching for calibration schedule data based on a priority of a calibration procedure.

Claim 40 (Original): The method of claim 38, wherein displaying the display view includes providing a search engine enabling searching for calibration schedule data based on a time or a date associated with a calibration procedure.

Claim 41 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree associated with audit trail entity data.

Claim 42 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein displaying the navigational tree includes displaying a first section of the navigational tree associated with entity data organized by device tags.

Claim 43 (Original): The method of claim 42, wherein displaying the first section of the navigational tree includes one or more sub-sections associated with device tags organized by one or more of all devices, assigned devices, spare devices and decommissioned devices.

Claim 44 (Original): The method of claim 24, further including presenting a search engine view at the remote site to enable a user at the remote site to search the entity data in the database and to present the entity data located in a search according to the predetermined viewing format.